



Company I Poopsheet



Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

October 2004

In Memory

Jane Beebe Lillyman

Jane Beebe Lillyman, age 88, Retired Registered Nurse, of Manassas, VA, passed away June 1, 2004, at Culpeper Health & Rehabilitation Center, Culpeper, VA. Mrs. Lillyman was born April 29, 1916, to J. Ross and Irene Horsington Beebe in Skeneateles, NY. Mrs. Lillyman was married to the late Lt. Colonel Frank Lewis Lillyman, who was the first Allied soldier to land on Normandy; and was also a member of the 101st Airborne "Pathfinders." Those family members surviving are daughters, Susan Hyland and her husband, Francis of Etlan, VA; Jean Melamed and her husband, Philip, of Hoffman Estates, IL; grandchildren, Deborah Hyland of St. Louis MO; Margaret Hyland of Fredericksburg, VA; John Gledhill of Lake of the Hills, IL; great-grandchildren, Carter and Ryan Gledhill of Lake of the Hills, IL.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, June 29, 2004, 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. In lieu of Flowers, donations may be made in Mrs. Lillyman's name to the National World War II Memorial, American Battle Monuments Commission, PO Box 96766, Washington, DC 20090-6766.

6/10/04, Susan L. (Mrs. F.P.) Hyland, Tranquility Farm, 3018 Whippoorwill Rd. Etlan, VA 22719, "Mother always enjoyed reading the news in the Company I Poopsheet. Thank you all for continuing to remember her.

Signed: Susan (Lillyman) Hyland" (daughter)



Charles "Ray" Olson

Charles "Ray" Olson of Sewickley, PA died Tuesday, July 27, 2004. Mr. Olson was born in Donora, Pa., on Feb. 12, 1920, and graduated from Donora High School in 1938. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942, serving in the 101st Airborne Division as a paratrooper throughout World War II. He was awarded two Purple Hearts for wounds received in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge as well as the French Croix de Guerre, the Dutch Orange Lanyard, the Belgian Croix de Guerre and a Presidential Unit Citation. Following the war, he settled in Jamestown, N.Y., where his parents had retired. On March 23, 1947, he married Marilyn Louise Dietzel at the Lakewood Methodist Church. They have two sons, Stephen and Jon Olson of Sewickley. Also surviving are two grandsons, Kevin and Darren Olson, and one great-granddaughter, Evelyn Olson, all of Portland, Ore. He also is survived by a daughter-in-law, Linda Olson, and granddaughter, Meghan Olson. He was preceded in death by his parents, four sisters and three brothers. He worked in the composing room of the Jamestown Post-Journal from

1951 to 1973, when he was transferred to be the general manager and publisher of the Elkins Inter-Mountain newspaper. He was a long-time member of the Lakewood American Legion.

Contributions may be made to the World War II Memorial Fund, c/o American Battle Monuments Commission, P.O. Box 96766, Washington, D.C., 20090.

Arrangements were handled by Richard D. Cole Funeral Home.



Clyde D. Cater, La Pine, OR, died Sunday, July 4, 2004, of natural causes. He was 80. A memorial service was held on Friday, July 9, 2004 at Baird Memorial Chapel in La Pine, OR. Clyde shared the same birthday as "The Father of Our Country" George Washington, February 22, 1924. He was born in San Bernardino, CA to Vern T. and Albertha Bowden Cater and lived in Redlands, CA area from 1924 to 1942, the year he graduated from Redlands High School. Clyde enlisted in the U.S. Army and proudly served from 1942 to 1945 where he was in the Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne. As a paratrooper in I /502, he was part of the dangerous "drop" into Holland known as Operation

Market Garden that contributed to the eventual victory over the German Army. He ultimately received the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts for his heroic action in the war. After the war, Clyde worked as a warehouse manager for Montgomery-Ward from 1950-1977 in Sacramento, CA and in Anchorage, Alaska. He married Wanda Madden in Minden, NV on June 21, 1969. Clyde retired in 1977 and spent his time doing what he enjoyed, such as fishing, painting with pastels, oils and charcoal, hunting big game, camping and traveling with his wife, Wanda. Clyde was a past member of the Elks, a long-time member of the American Legion and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans. Memorial donations can be sent in Clyde's memory to "Doctors Without Borders" at 1-888-392-0392

Wanda Cater, P.O. Box 2458, La Pine, OR 97739. Clyde died at home of a massive heart attack. I was with him when he died. Enclosed is a donation to help with expenses. Wanda

Manuel C. Gesulga, San Francisco, CA, 3/502 PIR WWII June 2, 2004 Manuel C. Gesulga, 81, passed away on June 2, 2004. Like many other men of this time, Manuel enlisted in the U.S. Army on December 12, 1941, just days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He volunteered for airborne paratrooper duty and finally ended up with the 101st Airborne Division S-2 section of the 502nd regiment. He made his first combat jump on D-Day, landing just outside of St. Mere Eglise, France. Surviving D-Day, he went on to fight in Operation Market Garden in

Holland. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, Manuel settled in Oakland CA and raised four children.

6/25/2004, Mrs. Jane Womack, 5015 Pimlico, Midland TX 79707 writes this "Charles R. Womack is deceased as of April 25, 2004".

Editor: We extend deepest sympathy to all the families of those who have passed away. We keep you in our heart and prayers.

From the mailbox:

6/3/04 Marvin & Charlotte Cartwright (email to Bob and his daughter Aggie) Nice to hear from you and glad Bob is doing better. I'm sure Bob will feel better by being able to drive and not have to depend on you kids quite so much. Beautiful weather in Wisconsin today, we mowed the whole yard. I ride the garden tractor with the mower attached, and Marv pushes the walking mower. Would you believe we get more tired than we did a few years ago! Just thankful we can do it ourselves though. Thanks Aggie for keeping in touch.

6/18/04 Hello Bob -from Wisconsin- A cool morning here. We had to replant cucumbers, now, everything is growing great...have fresh radishes and onions for neighbors and relatives, nothing like sharing. We got the Poopsheet, thank you for the great job again. Mary is going to call John Sanders again soon. Must call Lola Calderhead again too, the last we talked to her, she still had Jim at home, but he really wasn't doing good. Take care, enjoy your gardening. Don't know what we would do without our big

garden to work in.

6/20-22/04 So glad Bob enjoys the emails. I am sure fascinated at how fast and easy it is to send them. We had a call this evening from Lola Calderhead in Mansfield, OH. Jim was in the 101st and a good friend of Marv's. He has Alzheimer's and sometimes doesn't know Lola anymore. She would like to see some things listed on the back of the Poopsheet for her son and son-in-law. Thanks, Our love, Marv & Charlotte Cartwright

6/17/04 Betty Hill, email to Bob regarding Pat & Teresa Callery, I didn't hear from Pat & Teresa for so long...I sent emails and left messages for them last week, and at last, Teresa phoned this evening to say that Pat is now at home, weak but recovering. At this time is on oxygen and other medications. He was hospitalized for almost two months. He had heart surgery, two by-passes. That was successful, however, his lungs are a serious problem. Remember them in your prayers. Teresa said Pat would love to hear from anyone.

Pat sends emails regularly now. We hope he is doing okay.
Pcallery@optonline.net

6/13/04 Brenda Sleep, 199 Windgate Drive, Chester Springs, PA 19425 Dear Mr. Hartzell, I'm Brenda, daughter of Joseph Garcia. This is a quick note on Joe's behalf sending his sympathies regarding the passing of your wife Marie. As you know, Joe had relocated to Ohio in September of 2002 with is wife, Elisa. After being diagnosed with diabetes and then having fallen and also sustaining a head injury, we decided to move them closer

to my husband and me. Elisa has since passed away in March of 2004. Last fall my husband took a new job outside Philadelphia, which required us to relocate so we have brought Dad with us. He is in an assisted living near our home and is doing well. He enjoys reading the Pooosheet and wanted to make sure you had his new address: Joseph Garcia, c/o New Seasons of Exton, 600 N. Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341. Sincerely Brenda Sleep, Phone 610 458 3529

6/13/04 Joe Garcia, c/o New Seasons of Exton, 600 N. Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341 Bob, out of the clear blue, a little note from me to you, Joe Garcia.

6/04, Viona B. Yutzey, 3310 Paprika Ct., Adamstown, MD 21710, "I got the Pooosheet in April. I have a hard time writing, but God can help me. I'm sorry you were in the hospital and pray you are getting better Bob. I'm so sorry about Marie. I know she went to be with the Lord. She & I had a good time in New York. It was a good reunion. I'm so glad I met Marie. I'm glad she had a great family. Bob, I could not go to the WWII Memorial but I watched the TV on all of it and enjoyed it so much. The programs were great. George & I hoped to go to see the memorial but George did not make it and he talked about it a long time. I hope you are well and let me know if you went to the Memorial. 7/20/04 On June 6th, 2004, my Joyce & Phil took me to the WWII Memorial. It was a great day. I sure enjoyed it and thank God for it is a great memorial. George sure would have enjoyed it. Thanks for the Pooosheet. Viona B. Yutzey (A donation for

expenses enclosed).

6/21/04 Sybil Hatfield, P.O. Box 162, Pawnee, OR 74058, Bob, please send me a copy of the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 101st Airborne Division and a couple of the miniature paratroopers wings., the list of all Company I men who were killed in action and a list of all men who ever served in Co. I. Also, please send Co. I pre-Normandy Invasion roster of May 1944 and Co. Holland Invasion roster of Sept 17, 1944. Thank you *Note from Bob, I am happy to send the requested Co. I items to Sybil.*

6/27/04, Mrs. Everett A. Hoskinson, Costa Mesa, CA "Please take me off the mailing list. I remember when my husband was still alive, he would comment on the fellows. I have moved to a senior home after thirty-some years in my home in Costa Mesa, Calif. I have sold my home. Mrs. Everett A. Hoskinson." (She didn't put her new address on the note.)

7/1/2004, Lori Novotni, 3901 Lori Drive #10, Erlanger, KY 41018, niece of Pvt. Edward Sowder, I hope Bob is doing better. I'm also sorry about the last Pooosheet being returned...thought I had everyone up to date on my address change! Thanks. Lori Novotni

7/04/04, Dr. Wm. Harold Parham, 5151 Yacht Club Road, Jacksonville, FL 32210, "Dear Ms Betty, Thank you for my birthday card and comments. I am sure all of our group appreciate the assistance you have been to Bob. Check is attached - if you need more funds, let me know. (retired

twenty years, but not broke yet) Happy July 4th and many more, Best Regards, Harold."

7/6/04 Lola and Jim Calderhead, 778 Mansfield Lucas Rd., Mansfield, OH 44903 To Hartzell and Others, We received all things our friend, Marv Cartwright asked that you might send to Jim. He showed little recognition, but our son Scott and myself appreciated it. Scott met General Cody, 3-star general in the 101st, while at a wedding in Nashville of Scott's best friend, Dan Roach & Wynona Judd. General Cody gave Scott a gold coin with Normandy, Bastogne, Holland on the back to give to Jim. Also a ball cap with the 101st and Screaming Eagle on it. General Cody said you were the Real Soldiers! Please accept the check for postage and other expenses. Hartzell, you & your wife visited us once a long time ago here in Mansfield. Lola Calderhead, Jim's wife.

7/10/04 Richard C. Snow, 902 Silver Oak Ave., Lady Lake, FL 32159 Bob, I was very sorry to hear about your wife passing away. It's a terrible thing when one loses their spouse. I hope you are feeling better. I hear you had some problems. Bob, I'd like to know if you can get me a Disabled American Veterans license plate. I had one but somebody stole it off my car. I'd gladly pay for it. I'm enclosing a little donation for the Pooosheet. I'm sorry I didn't send a little more often. Yours truly, Richard Snow. *Note from Bob: Sorry I can't get the requested license plate. The Disabled American Veterans organization may be able to help.*

7/9/04 Ruth Purdy, 268 Lawrence St., Edwardsville, PA 18704 Bob, I was glad to read you are doing very good. I still volunteer in an office at our local VA Hospital. At our hospital we have what they call a memory case, full of all kinds of memorabilia from all wars. I've donated quite a few of Willard's items to be put on display. The case is in the entrance hall of our hospital. I take the Poopsheet and show it to anybody interested. The person in charge of the memory case has asked me if I can write you and request the items I have underlined. He wants to display them in the memory case. I realize its quite a few items, but send whatever you can. Hope this finds you in even a more improved health. Enclosed is money to cover expenses. Much love to all airborne friends, Ruth Purdy. P.S. I'll have my 81st birthday in August. The items will be noted they were obtained from you. Many thanks! *Note from Bob, I am happy to send the requested Co. I items to Ruth.*

7/12/04, Mary Cavanaugh, 954 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA 18704, "Dear Bob, hope you and your family are well. I enjoy the Poopsheet and like hearing about everyone. Thanks so much. Enclosing a check for expenses. Mary Cavanaugh"

7/23/04, Ed Mobley, PO Box 648, Lawtey, FL 32058. Ed's daughter, Barbara writes via email: Dad went in the hospital the 19th of July. He had to have one pint of blood. He had a narrowing of the esophagus. They reamed it out. He also has spider veins that bleed every once in awhile, this is why they give the blood, this seems to happen every

two years. He loves everything hot with peppers or hot sauce! At 81, let him enjoy life. They have gone to the lake for the rest of the week. Hope everything is well with all of you. **7/29/04** Dad is much better. Now enjoying the summer.

Joseph S. and June Hennessey, 32 Avenue B, Beacon Falls, CT 06403 Bob, Warmest thoughts are with you, glad you're doing better. We are selling our big home (10 rooms) and moving into four. This place is too much work for both of us. We go to Florida for 4 and half months and don't need this one. We have loads of airborne men pictures and would send if anyone wants them. Jim Howell always sent us pictures. We sure miss him. We also miss Bob Boyce and Bill Steadman a lot. We spent a lot of time each year with them. Bob we also miss you. Reunions are not the same without you. Hope you are doing well. Glad Betty is doing such a good job for you and us. Be well Bob, Love June and Joe.

8/2/04, Ray & June Dunlap, PO Box 65, Fayette City, PA 15438 "Bless the both of you for keeping this Co. I Poopsheet going. It sure is a treat for those of us left. I was fortunate to attend the World War II Memorial for four days with two of my life-long friends. It was breath-taking. Thank the good Lord I'm here to see it. I'm sending a couple of pictures. The 1st one is Don Backstrow and myself. He was in the Navy. Picture 2 was all three of us: Ray Ambrose, Don Backstrow and Ray Dunlap. Ray Ambrose was in the Signal Corp. I am enclosing a check to help with expenses. Ray & June Dunlap"



L-R, Don Backstrow and Ray Dunlap at the WWII Memorial Dedication.



L-R, Ray Dunlap, Ray Ambrose and Don Backstrow. (2004)

8/2/04, Fred and Delores Kraus, 4114 Murfield Dr. E., Bradenton, FL 34204, "Just to wish that everyone is still O.K. Delores and myself are fine. You and Bob are continuing the Poop Sheet, and we hope your efforts will continue, as we are happy to get the Poop Sheet whenever we receive it. Thanks and a check is enclosed for support of the paper. Fred Kraus"

8/10/04, Mabel Howell, email: knhowell@ebicom.net I talked to June Hennessey, Celso and Mary Garcia, Jim Norris, and Bob last weekend after I had heard from Marilyn Olson about Ray's death. She said that she was going to write everyone later. I can relate to her after loosing her husband.

We have gotten fun news, we plan to go to New York City the 26th of Sept as Scottie, my grandson was selected to be in the buddy walk at Central Park, and his picture with be on the wide screen at Times Square. The National Down Assoc. has a day in the park and plans for the children that whole day. So I am going with my son and his family for all the excitement. We are pretty excited about the trip. Scott is 3 years old and has a big brother John Taylor 6 yrs old. Love, Mabel

9/04 (email from Mabel) Just got back from NYC. Had a ball, all went well. Still have lots of email. Did the Co. I folks survive the trip. How was Jack Farrell doing after surgery? Love Mabel

8/10/04 John (Jack) Farrell and Ginny Nuncy, 8403 Pinacea Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32310. Since his bypass surgery two weeks ago, Jack is healing great in the chest and leg, however he just started walking yesterday and he should have a week ago. With more walking we hope to progress enough to make the September trip. Of course, time will tell. Thanks so much for your prayers and please keep them coming.

8/21/04 Jack is healing good but on Monday, (8/23) he will go for an operation on his neck, the artery, then we should be able to get excited again about our trip to Holland in Sept.

Editor's note: Jack and Ginny did make the trip to Holland.

8/20/04 Viona B. Yutzey, 3310 Paprika Ct., Adamstown, MD 21710 Bob, I'm so glad to write and have a hard time writing. I'm ok, but I miss George so much. It was Sept 8, 2003 and seems a long time since he went to the

Lord. I'm living with my daughter, Norma and her husband Jim and we get along great. I know you miss Marie. I had a good time there with her in New York at the reunion. Take care of your self. I miss the people at the reunions. God bless you special friend, God bless me also. Forgive my mistakes. Viona Yutzey.

Ann Bonfiglio, 36 Clarendon St. Watertown, Mass 03472 Bob & family, I was saddened greatly to hear about Marie's passing. She was truly "the lady" of Company I, 502 Airborne. She was always in our prayers during her illness, and she will always have a place in hearts of many as she is in mine. Hope you are recuperating and soon will be back with us. We truly miss you. I hope I can make the Snowbird Reunion this year in February 2005. Missed all the great awesome people that I had the honor of knowing. We are, as Tom Brokaw said, The Greatest Generation. We earned it! Enclosed is a donation to help with expenses. Airborne all the Way, Respectfully, Ann Bonfiglio

9/04 Susan Russell, 2479 El Paseo Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89121 I would like the following items if still available. I appreciate your efforts in doing so. I want as many "Sterling Miniature Paratroopers Wings" and "101" Insignia Combination Pins" that I can have...say, three each? I am going to use them with frames and photo albums that I have of my Dad in uniform. Would you please continue to send me the Pooopsheets as I enjoy them very much, and they keep me apprised of the annual get-together? Thank you very much for continuing the work to keep the Pooopsheet going.

Finally, would you consider placing a note in the Pooopsheet for me? I am Dan Paripovich's daughter, Susan Russell. Some time ago, I sent everyone a package with copies of Company I photo's from World War II and copies of medals and miscellaneous items that I wanted to identify. I enjoyed reading the responses I have received and look forward to receiving more. I would enjoy correspondence, conversation and answers. I would also like to be kept up to speed on any reunions. If anyone has the time or interest to follow up with me, please do so by contacting me at the above address. My telephone number is 702 893 0035 and email is smprussell@aol.com. Thank you for your time and please accept this donation for your continued work on the Pooopsheet. Sincerely, Susan Russell *Note from Bob: I am happy to send the requested company I items to Susan.*

Don and Pat O'Neill, 2312 Elfin Way, Sarasota, FL 34231 (email) Dear Bob and Aggie, received your most welcome letter today and I'm so glad we've established a base-touching method through "Dear Aggie". One thing I envy you is that your children are fairly close. Our four are very well scattered, one in Iowa, one in Michigan, and two in Seattle. We keep in contact with email, occasional visits and the good old phone. Pat is not doing too well, as I told you before, she suffers from cancer in both lungs., a very slow growing variation. Two years ago, she was given 6 months, so she's beating the odds so far. Because of oxygen needs, we don't travel too much that's why the February get-together won't work for us. One reflection on

history, I'm still trying to get the Purple Heart courtesy of the Causeway. Just the principle of the thing. I don't know whether you remember Strobel (the famous picture with Ike), he lived down here in the winter and passed away last year. Enough yakking, take good care of yourselves., Airborne all the Way, Don O'Neill.

10/7/04, John (Jack) Farrell,
8493 Pinacea Lane, Tallahassee,
FL 32310, Phone 850 575 8763

Email from Ginny Muncy, To our family and friends, As most of you know Jack and I went on this wonderful trip to the Netherlands. It was a most incredible experience to see the Dutch people and their reaction to their Liberators. Before the trip, on July 22nd, Jack had open heart surgery, and 3 weeks later, he had surgery on the artery on the right side of his neck. Everything healed as far as the outside of his body, however, Jack would not listen to the doctors and walk after he got home, and in my mind was too weak to take the trip. He of course, is a man (sorry guys), and we went. After the trip, my daughter, June, picked us up at the airport and took us to her home in Orlando to stay a couple of nights, but Jack was so weak by then that I said let's go home. On the way we decided to stop at the VA hospital in Gainesville. Nine days later on this past Saturday, they released Jack. Wen he went in he weighed 212 and a few days later he weighed 192. They took that much fluid out of the left side of his chest. The results from the tests are that he has lung cancer. He will take chemo, it starts on Oct 19, without it, they say he has from 3 to 6 monthsc and with it he

may have 1 to 2 years. They said he is in stage 3, there are 4 stages, and they can't operate. He is back to work, and I think that will help him mentally. He can't do much, but his boss is wonderful to him. Of course he only works part time. Things have been a little upsetting. That is why you haven't heard from us. I will try to do better. I do request that if it's in your heart to add Jack to your prayer list, we would appreciate it. Until next time, we love you all and pray you're fine Ginny

Many veterans are interviewed at special times of the year. Here part of an interview with one of our own Company I veterans in June 2004.



*A life, and a world, shaped by war
Veteran: 60 years ago, Earl Ralph
Kelly parachuted into Normandy
and into history.
(Earl Ralph Kelly: Photo from 2003
Snowbird Reunion)*

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

*Sarah Merkey
Published on June 6, 2004
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*As one of the thousands of
paratroopers leading the June 6,
1944, D-Day invasion at*

Normandy, Earl Ralph Kelly was dropped 15 miles off target. But he could have had it much worse.

"The pilots of the plane took evasive action," said Kelly, a resident of Aberdeen. "They dumped full loads of men into the English Channel." Those men were paratroopers carrying 80 pounds of equipment, Kelly said, and they didn't stand a chance. Kelly completed his training in Fort Benning, Ga., in June 1942, proud to be a member of the new outfit with high expectations for its men. He served in the 502nd Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Division, through the duration of World War II and was assigned to the Austrian occupation after the war, until he was discharged Oct. 15, 1945.

Kelly, 82, is part of a generation that is passing into history. Many members of his generation have spent the past 60 years reconciling the war with their lives, which have been largely shaped by it. Kelly felt the brotherhood the war fostered; he recoiled at the orders to take no prisoners; and he was addicted to the adrenaline of putting his life on the line in the name of national pride.

"It isn't something you forget; you just live with the damn stuff for the rest of your life," Kelly said.

He keeps in touch with some of his war buddies, including one Havre de Grace resident whom he's known since jump school. Kelly said he talked openly with those who had experienced the war with him but didn't talk much about it with anyone else.

"You can talk about one battle, and you talk about the whole damn war, anyhow, because it's all the same," Kelly said.

Kelly said he felt closer than a brother to John Altomare of

Arbutus, who died in December. He might have died much earlier if it hadn't been for Kelly. "I found my buddy laying in a ditch, and I carried him out of there," Kelly said, referring to a time at Normandy when he braved enemy fire to save his friend. Kelly spoke of the bravery of another soldier with that anecdote, one who had taken a German horse and wagon, and was traveling around the battlefield picking up wounded men and carrying them to safety. "He saved hundreds of lives," Kelly said. "He had no weapon; he was just out doing good deeds, and that took a lot of guts."

(Poopsheet Editor's note: Pat Gallery, Co. I, is the courageous medic referred to here)

Decorations

Kelly was awarded a wide collection of decorations and medals for his courage in battle, but only after a 51-year wait. He said the government told him his service records had been destroyed. At the urging of his children, he reluctantly pursued the matter. After a long process and with the help of several members of Congress and notarized letters from men with whom he served, his bravery was recognized. His awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Overall, Kelly has noticed great improvements in the treatment of veterans in the past few years in areas such as health care, changes he attributes to the Vietnam veterans. Kelly said he decided to enlist in the Army after listening to World War I veterans talk of their experience. Four of his five brothers also served in World War II, and all four returned home alive. His mother was British and encouraged her sons to serve

their country.

"She said, 'This country owes you nothing, but a debt you owe,'" Kelly recalled. "She said this is the greatest country in the world - and that's coming from the mouth of a foreigner."

The promise of \$50 extra each month for paratroopers is what persuaded Kelly to attend airborne school.

"That was big bucks back then, believe me," Kelly said. He and four of his friends joined an outfit that told its men from the beginning that it expected something extra from them. After intense physical training that included long runs, 31-mile marches and karate, Kelly was assigned to I Company, 3rd Battalion. "Every man was very anxious to get into war," Kelly said. "If someone had told me after all that training that I couldn't go to Normandy, I'd have gone anyhow."

Kelly was hospitalized twice for minor injuries, but each time he returned to his company and the high-intensity atmosphere of war.

"After you've been in combat, it grows on you; you start living off the adrenaline high," Kelly said. "You start needing something to get your adrenaline going."

For some soldiers, war becomes entangled with questions of morality, and for Kelly it was no different.

An enemy's letter

"We were given orders when we went into Normandy to take no prisoners. Any way you look at it, it's murder," Kelly said. "I could see the logic in it, but I couldn't do it." Kelly remembered word for word a portion of a letter found by a friend that was written by a German soldier killed in combat. A friend translated the letter into

English. In the letter, Kelly said, the soldier said was afraid of fighting against the American paratroopers because of their ferocious reputation.

"It said, 'We're told that they don't take prisoners. I sure hope they do,'" Kelly said. Still, Kelly feels that he did what he had to do while in combat. "You learn real quick it was kill or be killed," Kelly said while describing landing in the middle of a German bivouac.

"Just to get in there was horrendous," Kelly said. "From the very moment we got across France, the anti-aircraft fire was horrendous." Kelly said the ride in the plane was so bad he wasn't afraid to jump out. "I wanted out of that thing," he said. "Dropped 15 miles off course, Kelly crawled as quickly as he could to the cover of a nearby ditch, where he had to cut himself out of his parachute and assemble his weapon before he began fighting in close combat. He was so far from where he should have been that it took him days to get back to his unit."

In captivity

Kelly estimated that it was three to five days after he landed that he was taken prisoner by the Germans while in an aid center having stray metal fragments removed from his knee.

"I thought I was going to be shot any minute," Kelly said.

A few days later, an artillery barrage gave Kelly and two other men the opportunity to escape. He still doesn't know where he was or how long he was in captivity. Keeping track of the date wasn't his main objective. "Time doesn't mean very much when you're in battle," Kelly said.

Kelly spoke of being yards from Winston Churchill, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (eldest

son of President Theodore Roosevelt) and Dwight D. Eisenhower. They were there because Kelly and his comrades would be leading one of the most important invasions of the war, but Kelly didn't know that. "We knew we were going in," Kelly said. "But we weren't told any of that stuff."

Coming home was different, though. The American people, while doing all they could do to support the troops, had kept on living their lives. "When I came home, I was just home," Kelly said. "I couldn't even get my job back." Kelly was eventually hired at Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1946 - where he worked for 25 years developing, testing and evaluating aircraft armament, and taught at ordnance school for four years.

Three weeks ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs chartered a bus for Kelly and other World War II veterans to travel to Washington to visit the National World War II Memorial, which Kelly said he thought was long overdue.

Enduring gratitude

"I thought it was very gratifying," Kelly said. While at the memorial, Kelly was approached by a young woman from France who hugged the surprised veteran and thanked him in French for liberating the town she would later be born in.

Kelly and his wife, Virginia, have five children. For his three sons, serving in the military was a must. "The only choice they had was what branch," Kelly said. He said one of his sons served two tours in Vietnam, one went into the Navy, and the third served 12 years in the military. Both of his daughters married career soldiers.

One of his seven grandchildren went into the military and is on active duty in the National Guard.

Kelly said that despite the horrors of war, he returned with a strong sense of camaraderie.

"There's no way I could have remotely imagined the traumatic experience I went through," Kelly said. "But when you're in the units and you're talking with your buddies, you're all one." "It isn't something you forget,"

"Remember September" the 60th Anniversary Tour of Holland

(Betty Taylor Hill) A group of more than 140 people, veterans and their families, met at Schiphol Airport in Holland on September 13, 2004 for a 10 day tour of memorials, battlefields and towns of Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. Some even continued to Normandy and other areas of France for another 6 days. Though tiring, the excitement and friendships kept everyone going each day to the warm receptions offered by the Dutch people. Once again, they opened their hearts and homes to the brave troopers who liberated them in 1944-1945. This was my first trip.

A lifelong dream to see the place where my brother died on September 19, 1944. Through my search the past 3 years, I made many friends in Holland. They welcomed me with open arms and showed me all the places I had read and heard about for 60 years. I saw the area near the town of Best where the 3/502 was on September 17-19, 1944, visited the drop zones, saw the foxholes in the pine forest near the Canal, visited the impressive Joe Mann Memorial, among several others, visited the "Peace Forest" in Belgium where a veteran can plant a tree and a plaque with his name

stand beside the tree, toured battlefields of the Battle of the Bulge. The beautiful countryside now reflects the pride and love the Dutch and Belgium people have for their country and their freedom obtained in WWII. We visited the National Cemetery at Margraten, stood at Lt. Col. Cole's grave and saw with awe all the names of the MIA's along the two huge walls leading to the cemetery. Two ladies of the group were there to see their Dad's graves for the first time, a very emotional moment. The color-guard, made up of current soldiers stationed nearby, took part in all ceremonies. Some of us had the pleasure of meeting young soldiers from our hometown areas. The feeling "It's a small world" surely prevailed. Several of the 101st Vietnam era veterans and their families accompanied the tour. It was good to have them along and share the experiences.

REUNION TIME!

FEBRUARY 3-4-5, 2005

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL COMPANY I REUNION in conjunction with the 29th Annual 101st Airborne Division Association Snowbird Reunion which is sponsored by The Sunshine State Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association

February 3, 4, 5, 2005, at the Ramada Plaza Gateway Hotel & Inn, Kissimmee, FL

7470 Highway 192 West,
Kissimmee, FL 34747
Toll Free: 1-800-327-9170
Local: 407-396-4400
Fax: 407-396-4320
E-Mail Address:

Info@RamadaGateway.com

We hope that many of you can plan to attend the reunion in February. More information and a registration form will be available

in the upcoming **Screaming Eagle magazine**. At this time we don't have the registration forms available. We will try to get out another Poopsheet before the end of the year and have more details. In the meantime, watch for the Screaming Eagle magazine!

COMPANY I /502 PIR TREASURY REPORT

June 2004, our balance was \$836.79. We received \$335.00 in donations, with a balance of \$1171.79. Recent expenses were \$180.87 for producing our June Poopsheet, leaving us a balance of \$990.92 prior to this issue.

We have these email addresses. Send Betty any corrections and your new email address.

Betty Taylor Hill -
bjth23@yahoo.com
Aggie Hartzell Welling -
wwelling@woh.rr.com
Susanne Baker Nall -
xandq16@aol.com
Ted Nivens -
tednivens@msn.com
Barbara Mobley Slover -
sloverba@gator.net
Peter Kelly -
airborn@comcast.net
Mabel Howell -
kmhowell@ebicom.net
Pat Callery -
pcallery@optonline.net
Marvin & Charlotte Cartwright -
challie@cvol.net
Hank & Trudy van Zeldren -
vzelkra@aol.com
Lori Novotni
Lnovotni@att.net
Susan Russell
Smprussell@aol.com
Ginny Muncy (Jack Farrell)
Littleteapot1@comcast.net

Returned Mail, Addresses Removed:
Mrs. Loren L. (Sarah J) Mitchell, 6050 Fletcher Chapel Rd., South Charleston, OH 45368, (marked Return to Sender)
Mrs. John F. Whitton, 7908 S. Linn Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73159 (no new address)
Rose Hubner, PO Box 465, Vintondale, PA 15961 (undeliverable)
Mrs. Harry (Mary) Blackledge, 53 Livingston Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ (Reason not known)
Mrs. Everett Hoskinson, Costa Mesa, CA

Address Changes/Additions:

New Address:

Mrs. John (Marie M) Derosé,
101 Burke St. Apt. 316, Nashua, NH 03060
Lori Novotni (niece of Pvt. Edward Sowder) 3901 Lori Drive #10 Erlanger, KY 41018
Email: Lnovotni@att.net
Alfred E. Simmons, 502 E. McArthur St., Rotan, TX 79546
Susan L. Hyland, 3018 Whippoorwill Rd. Ettan, VA 22719 (Daughter of Frank Lillyman)

Please write or call with news, photos, or just to say hello to everyone ---- keeps us in touch!

Betty Taylor Hill (I'm Moving)
Here's my new address effective October 29, 2004
2222 Settler's Way # 914
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Phone: 281-277-3787
Email: bjth23@yahoo.com
Until then it remains:
15255 Gray Ridge Dr. # 816
Houston, TX 77082
Phone 281-497-9468
Email bjth23@yahoo.com

Robert (Bob) Hartzell
313 Wentz St.
Tiffin, OH 44883
Phone 419-447-0448
Email: wwelling@woh.rr.com

CONTACT BOB HARTZELL if you want any of these items listed here. They are yours

simply by asking for them, and they are yours at no charge.

Items available are:

Company I picture taken at Fort Bragg in 1943 -
Roster of names of the men in this Company I picture -
Company I pre-Normandy Invasion Roster of May 1944 -
Company I Holland Invasion Roster of September 17, 1944 -
Copy of the Citation for the Award of the French Croix de Guerre with Palm to the 502nd PIR -
Copy of the Citation for the Award of the Belgian Fourragere 1940 to the 101st -
Copy of the Citation for the Award of the Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm to the 101st -
Copy of the Award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 502nd PIR -
Copy of the Citation for the Award of the Dutch Orange Lanyard to the 101st -
Copy of the Award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 101st Airborne Division -
Pamphlet on how you can receive your Medals and Awards -
Sterling Miniature Paratroopers Wings and 101st Insignia Combination Pins, given to us to distribute to you by Mrs. John (Elmeda) Lachkovic-Hill -
Company I cassette tape made in 1980, recalling the names of Company I men killed in action, and those who died since 1945 -
Copy of the Citation of a Qualified Paratrooper given at Fort Benning, Georgia -
Cassette tape of "D-Day Jump June 6, 1944" by NBC reporter Wright Bryant, as seen by him from Col. Robert G. Cole's plane -
Copy of an 8-1/2-11 picture of a fully equipped paratrooper ready to make a Combat Jump -
List of all Company I men who were killed in action, along with their date of death -
List of all the men who ever served in Co. I